

open and close. They have diversion systems. I literally have people in their living rooms with buckets trying to keep the water out.

I had elected officials come to my office this week with pictures of everything that their town owned dumped out on the street because the water comes in. And somehow in America we have lost either the interest, the will, or the ability to use the resources we have and the brains that God gave us to figure this out.

Although countries have done it—and I am sure the Netherlands is not the only country that has done it—I am here to tell you America is a long way from getting this right.

I came to the floor to introduce a bill—it is not going to completely solve this problem, but I will send it to the desk because it is going to take more than one bill to do it. In the supplemental bill we passed, the emergency disaster bill, there is a portion in that bill—it is a \$1.5 billion portion—that is directed to only one project in south Louisiana. This bill I am going to lay down will suggest that the \$1.5 billion that is directed to one project be given to the State in a way that our Governor, who is not a Democrat but a Republican—so I am not doing this with party. He is Republican and I am working with him—to give him and his team an opportunity to use those funds to cover the billions of dollars of projects we have underway.

We have billions of dollars of projects underway. We have \$1.5 billion in the bill. So instead of directing it to one particular project, I thought it might be worth discussing the wisdom and the benefit of trying to give it to our State, allowing them to use it in a way that will most quickly benefit the most people.

I want to show the levee structure. We have passed since 1986 eight WRDA bills, water resources development bills. This is the way Congress builds levees all over the country. The red represents Federal levees in Louisiana, the green represents local levees, and then the yellow is boundaries separating our parishes. We don't have counties, we have parishes. Here is St. Bernard Parish. This parish, by the way, with 67,000 people, was completely obliterated in Katrina—completely. Out of 67,000 people, there were 5—5—homes that were not completely inundated up to the roof with water. That is St. Bernard Parish.

Then we have Orleans, and we saw what happened when the levees broke: 70 percent of the city went underwater. What you didn't see was Plaquemine Parish went underwater. This levee helped. This is the only levee in our entire State, Golden Meadow, even though it held in Katrina—you are going to have a hard time believing this, but this little levee held down here in Golden Meadow. But since Katrina, I can't seem to get a dollar to lift it a little higher because the Corps of Engineers, for some reason, doesn't

think this is a big priority. It held again in Ike, and it held again in Gustav. They keep telling me there is something wrong, we can't build a levee this way. I said: Since this levee held and yours broke, maybe Golden Meadow knows something about building levees. Nevertheless, we don't have money to help them strengthen that levee, although it has been through four hurricanes now.

In the last WRDA bill, we authorized \$6.9 billion of projects, which is the good news, and some of that money will be spent here. By the way, there will be billions of dollars spent around the country on levees such as this. We are only one of 50 States. I most certainly don't think we should get all the money in Louisiana, although we have a lot of the water. The Mississippi River probably deserves a little extra because of that, and we do because it is a water bill, it is not a desert bill. If it were a desert bill, New Mexico would get a good portion of that money. It is a water bill. We have a lot of water, so we get a lot of money.

We have \$6 billion. However, in the actual appropriations bill, we only have \$1.5 billion. So the best way I can think to take that \$1.5 billion, instead of dedicating it to one project, is give it to the Governor and let him, with his team and the legislature, Democrats and Republicans, figure out how to lay that money down on south Louisiana to save as much as we can while we wait and work for the revenue-sharing piece I talked about earlier, the portion of the offshore oil and gas revenues. We are now going to get 37 percent of those revenues, which are moneys that come to the Federal Treasury that if Louisiana weren't willing to produce oil and gas, the country would not have. They might own the resources off our coast, off our 9-mile boundary, but they couldn't access those revenues without the people of Louisiana agreeing.

Remember, Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, and Alabama are the only States that allow drilling off their coasts, and Alaska, which is not in the lower 48, of course. So because we allow drilling, because we generate \$10 billion, we thought instead of coming here hat in hand every year, let us direct some of that money to help us build these levees and then in the meantime, we can get occasionally some money in the water resources bill or in an appropriations bill to add to that so we can start protecting our people. We may not get to 1 in every 10,000 years' storm, but we most certainly need to get past 1 out of every 100 years. We have to move not from a category 3 protection but to a category 5 protection, and we have to do it quickly. So I send this bill to the desk and hope we can consider it at the earliest convenience.

I wish to also send to the desk some more detailed information about what I have spoken about, and I will conclude this portion by saying that this

is an urgent matter. I don't know how many storms we have to endure on the gulf coast, America's energy coast, before this Congress realizes this is an economic disaster, it is an emotional drain on people who continue to watch everything they own flood time and time again.

If I thought I could relocate 2 million people to another part—even if I could get them to go, which I couldn't because this is their home—it would be too expensive. Who would stay and run the river? Who would keep these channels open? Who would drill for the oil and gas? We haven't figured out how to do this from unmanned aerial platforms yet. People actually have to go out into this coastline and work hard every day in agriculture, in oil and gas and in fisheries. This operation cannot be run from Kansas City or from Little Rock, AR. It has to be run on the coast. And everybody who lives on a coast, whether you live in Florida or Texas or South Carolina or North Carolina or Georgia understands what I am talking about. We can't relocate everyone to Denver. We have to protect our coasts, and we are doing a terrible job of it in this country. I am one of the Senators who represents the most challenged area in the Nation. Louisiana is not the only . . .

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 690—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE CONCERNING THE CONFLICT BETWEEN RUSSIA AND GEORGIA

Mr. KERRY (for himself and Mr. SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 690

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) irrespective of the origins of the recent conflict in Georgia, the disproportionate military response by the Russian Federation on the sovereign, internationally recognized territory of Georgia, including the South Ossetian Autonomous Region (referred to in this resolution as "South Ossetia") and the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia (referred to in this resolution as "Abkhazia"), is in violation of international law and commitments of the Russian Federation;

(2) the actions undertaken by the Government of the Russian Federation in Georgia have diminished its standing in the international community and should lead to a review of existing, developing, and proposed multilateral and bilateral arrangements;

(3) the United States recognizes significant interests in common with the Russian Federation, including combating the proliferation of nuclear weapons and fighting terrorism, and these interests can, over time, serve as the basis for improved long-term relations;

(4) the Government of the Russian Federation should immediately comply with the September 8, 2008, follow-on agreement to the 6-point cease-fire agreement negotiated on August 12, 2008;

(5) the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of Georgia should—

(A) refrain from the future use of force to resolve the status of Abkhazia and South Ossetia; and

(B) work with the United States, Europe, and other concerned countries and through the United Nations Security Council, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and other international fora to identify a political settlement that addresses the short-term and long-term status of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, in accordance with prior United Nations Security Council resolutions;

(6) the United States should—

(A) provide humanitarian and economic assistance to Georgia;

(B) seek to improve commercial relations with Georgia; and

(C) working in tandem with the international community, continue to support the development of a strong, vibrant, multiparty democracy in Georgia;

(7) the President should consult with Congress on future security cooperation and assistance to Georgia, as appropriate;

(8) the United States continues to support the North Atlantic Treaty Organization declaration reached at the Bucharest Summit on April 3, 2008; and

(9) the United States should work with the European Union, Georgia, and its neighbors to ensure the free flow of energy to Europe and the operation of key communication and trade routes.

SENATE RESOLUTION 691—DESIGNATING THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2008, AS “FEED AMERICA DAY”

Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. CASEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 691

Whereas Thanksgiving Day celebrates the spirit of selfless giving and an appreciation for family and friends;

Whereas the spirit of Thanksgiving Day is a virtue upon which the Nation was founded;

Whereas, according to the Department of Agriculture, roughly 35,000,000 people in the United States, including 12,000,000 children, continue to live in households that do not have an adequate supply of food; and

Whereas selfless sacrifice breeds a genuine spirit of thanksgiving, both affirming and restoring fundamental principles in our society: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates Thursday, November 20, 2008, as “Feed America Day”; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to sacrifice 2 meals on Feed America Day and to donate the money that they would have spent on food to a religious or charitable organization of their choice for the purpose of feeding the hungry.

SENATE RESOLUTION 692—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 9 THROUGH NOVEMBER 15, 2008, AS “NATIONAL VETERANS AWARENESS WEEK” TO EMPHASIZE THE NEED TO DEVELOP EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS REGARDING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF VETERANS TO THE COUNTRY

Mr. REID (for Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. DODD, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr.

VOINOVICH, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. OBAMA, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. TESTER, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. STEVENS)) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 692

Whereas tens of millions of Americans have served in the Armed Forces of the United States during the past century;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of Americans have given their lives while serving in the Armed Forces during the past century;

Whereas the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by the people of the United States;

Whereas the advent of the all-volunteer Armed Forces has resulted in a sharp decline in the number of individuals and families who have had any personal connection with the Armed Forces;

Whereas this reduction in familiarity with the Armed Forces has resulted in a marked decrease in the awareness by young people of the nature and importance of the accomplishments of those who have served in the Armed Forces, despite the current educational efforts of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the veterans service organizations;

Whereas the system of civilian control of the Armed Forces makes it essential that the future leaders of the Nation understand the history of military action and the contributions and sacrifices of those who conduct such actions; and

Whereas in each of the years 2000 through 2007 the Senate has recognized the need to increase the understanding of the contributions of veterans among school-aged children by approving a resolution recognizing the week containing Veterans Day as “National Veterans Awareness Week”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of November 9 through November 15, 2008, as “National Veterans Awareness Week” for the purpose of emphasizing educational efforts directed at elementary and secondary school students concerning the contributions and sacrifices of veterans; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Veterans Awareness Week with appropriate educational activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 693—RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2008 AS “NATIONAL HOMELESS YOUTH AWARENESS MONTH”

Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. BAYH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 693

Whereas between 1,600,000 and 2,800,000 children and teens are homeless in the United States each year, with many staying on the streets or in emergency shelters;

Whereas families with children are the fastest growing segment of the homeless population and now make up approximately ⅓ of that population;

Whereas many homeless youth experience isolation and trauma while residing on the streets or in precarious housing situations and may eventually develop depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder;

Whereas homeless youth are typically too poor to secure basic needs and are unable to access adequate medical or mental health care;

Whereas many youth become homeless due to a lack of financial and housing resources as they exit juvenile corrections and foster care;

Whereas 12 to 36 percent of foster youth experience homelessness at least once after exiting foster care;

Whereas homeless youth are most often expelled from their homes by their guardians after physical, sexual, or emotional abuse or separated from their parents through death or divorce without adequate resources; and

Whereas awareness of the tragedy of youth homelessness and its causes must be heightened so that greater support for effective programs involving businesses, families, law enforcement agencies, schools, and community and faith-based organizations, aimed at helping youth remain off the streets becomes a national priority: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the values and efforts of businesses, organizations, and volunteers dedicated to meeting the needs of homeless children and teens;

(2) applauds the initiatives of businesses, organizations, and volunteers that employ time and resources to build awareness of the homeless youth problem, its causes, and potential solutions, and work to prevent homelessness among children and teens; and

(3) should recognize the month of November 2008 as “National Homeless Youth Awareness Month” and encourages these businesses, organizations, and volunteers to continue to intensify their efforts during the month of November.

SENATE RESOLUTION 694—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING OCTOBER 19, 2008, AS “NATIONAL CHARACTER COUNTS WEEK”

Mr. DOMENICI (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. INHOFE, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. ENZI, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. CORNYN, and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 694

Whereas the well-being of the United States requires that the young people of the United States become an involved, caring citizenry with good character;

Whereas the character education of children has become more urgent as violence by and against youth increasingly threatens the physical and psychological well-being of the people of the United States;

Whereas more than ever, children need strong and constructive guidance from their families and their communities, including schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, and civic groups;

Whereas the character of a nation is only as strong as the character of its individual citizens;

Whereas the public good is advanced when young people are taught the importance of good character and the positive effects that good character can have in personal relationships, in school, and in the workplace;

Whereas scholars and educators agree that people do not automatically develop good